

What is claimed is:

1. An image pickup apparatus comprising:  
a memory which stores brightness of an object picked-up by an image pickup device;  
a control device which changes a mode of extraction of an image signal, regarded as an achromatic signal, output from said image pickup device, based on a result of comparison with a current brightness and the stored brightness; and  
control white balance based on the extracted image signal.

2. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said brightness is stored in said memory before turning off a power supply.

3. An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a recording device that records the image signal controlled by said control device;

wherein said brightness is stored in said memory in response that a recording of the image signal is started or stopped.

4. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said control device changes a mode to extend an extracting range to extract the achromatic image signal in case that difference between the current brightness and the stored brightness is more than a predetermined value.

5. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said control device changes a mode to narrow an extracting range to extract the achromatic image signal in case that difference between the current brightness and the stored brightness is less than a predetermined value.

6. Image pickup apparatus comprising:

an image pickup device which picks up an image from an object;

a signal processing circuit that produces a luminance signal and a color signal from the image pickup signal of said image pickup device;

a memory which stores previous brightness of an object before being in the image pickup status and holds it even if power supply of the image pickup apparatus is turned off; and

a control device which determines light source on the basis of brightness stored by said memory and the current brightness and controls white balance of the color signal produced by said signal processing circuit.

7. An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said brightness of said object stored before being in the image pickup status is stored before the previous recording is stopped.

8. An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said brightness of said object stored before being in the image pickup status is recorded before the previous power supply is turned off.

9. An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said control device determines light source on the basis the brightness stored by said memory and the current brightness along turning on power supply and controls white balance of the color signal produced by said signal processing circuit in response to the determination.

10. An apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising:

recording device which records the image signal produced from the output of said signal processing circuit,

wherein said brightness is stored in said memory in response that a recording of the image signal is started or stopped.

11. An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the luminance signal produced by said signal processing circuit is stored in said memory as brightness of the object which is in the image pickup status.

12. An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein an iris position, a gain of said image pickup device, an image pickup time, brightness of the object in a white balance state produced by said signal processing circuit is stored in said memory as brightness of the object which is the image pickup status.

13. An apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising:

an observing device which observes the object; and

an observation detecting device which detects that an operator uses said observing device,

wherein said control device controls said memory only when said detecting device detects the operator uses the viewer.

14. An image pickup apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said white balance control device changes a white extracting range for producing a white balance control signal to the determined light source.

15. An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said control device changes a mode to extend an extracting range to extract an achromatic image signal in case that difference between the current brightness and the stored brightness is more than a predetermined value.

16. An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said control device changes a mode to narrow an extracting range to extract the achromatic image signal in case that difference between the current brightness and the stored brightness is less than a predetermined value.

17. An image processing method for processing an image picked-up by an image pickup device comprising:

storing brightness of an object picked-up by an image pickup device;

changing a mode of extraction of an image signal, regarded as an achromatic signal, output from said image pickup device based on a result of comparison with a current brightness and the stored brightness; and

controlling white balance based on the extracted image signal.

18. An image processing method for processing an image picked-up by an image pickup device comprising:

picking-up an image from an object;

producing a luminance signal and a color signal from the image pickup signal of said image pickup device;

storing the previous brightness of object before being in the image pickup status and holding it even if power supply of the image pickup apparatus is turned off; and

determining light source on the basis of said stored brightness and an information about current brightness and controlling white balance of the color signal produced by said signal processing circuit in response to its determination.